

Iran-Contra: Final Report of the Independent Counsel

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=328zUU_oDCK (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=328zUU_oDCK)

Uploaded by [Our Hidden History](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbfzszfxZr4qmeZiZ_3R_Pw) (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbfzszfxZr4qmeZiZ_3R_Pw) on Wed Jun 22 2016.

An audiobook reading of the "Final Report of the Independent Counsel for the Iran/Contra Investigation", "Investigations and Prosecutions" section of Volume 1. Full report can be found here:
<https://fas.org/irp/offdocs/walsh/>

Narrated by Chris Abernathy (<https://www.fiverr.com/provoman>) and produced by D. Giglio for 'Our Hidden History'.

For more related content, please visit: <https://archive.org/details/@altviewstv-fanclub>

[00:00:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=328zUU_oDCK\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=328zUU_oDCK)

final report of the Independent Counsel for iran-contra matters volume 1 investigations and prosecutions
Lawrence he Walsh Independent Counsel August fourth 1993 washington DC United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit executive summary in October and November 1986 to secret US government operations were publicly exposed potentially implicating Reagan administration officials in illegal activities these operations were the provision of assistance to the military activities of the Nicaraguan Contras rebels during in October 1984 to October 1986 prohibition on such aid and the sale of us arms to Iran and contravention of stated US policy and in possible violation of arms export controls in late November 1986 Reagan administration officials announced that some of the proceeds from the sale of us arms to Iran had been diverted to the Contras as a result of the exposure of these operations Attorney General Edwin mace the third sought the appointment of an independent counsel to investigate and if necessary prosecute possible crimes arising from them the special division of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit appointed Lawrence iwal Sh as independent counsel on December nineteenth nineteen eighty-six and charged him with investigating one the direct or indirect sale shipment or transfer since in or about nineteen eighty four down to the present of military arms material or funds to the government of Iran officials of that government persons organizations or entities connected with or purporting to

[00:02:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=328zUU_oDCK&t=120s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=328zUU_oDCK&t=120s)

entities connected with or purporting to represent that government or persons located in Iran to the direct or indirect sale shipment or transfer of military arms material or funds to any government entity or person acting or purporting to act as an intermediary in any transaction referred to above three the financing or funding of any direct or indirect sale shipment or transfer referred to above for the diversion of proceeds from any transaction described above to or for any person organization foreign government or any faction or body of insurgents in any foreign country including but not limited to Nicaragua five the provision or coordination of support for persons or entities engaged as military insurgents in armed conflict with the government of Nicaragua since 1984 this is the final report of that investigation overall conclusions the investigations and prosecutions have shown that high-ranking administration officials violated laws and executive orders in the iran-contra matter Independent Counsel concluded that the sales of arms to Iran contravened United States government policy and may have violated the arms Export Control Act one Independent Counsel is aware that the Reagan administration Justice Department took the position after the November 1986 revelations that the 1985 shipments of United States weapons to Iran did not violate the law this post hoc position does

not correspond with the contemporaneous advice given the President as detailed within this report Secretary of Defense Caspar W Weinberger a lawyer with an extensive record in private practice and the former general counsel of the bechtel corporation

[00:04:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=328zUU_oDCK&t=241s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=328zUU_oDCK&t=241s)

counsel of the bechtel corporation advised president reagan in nineteen eighty five that the shipments were illegal moreover Weinberger's opinion was shared by attorneys within the Department of Defense and the White House counsel's office once they became aware of the 1985 shipments finally when attorney general Meese conducted his initial inquiry into the Iran arms sales he expressed concern that the shipments may have been ill the provision and coordination of support to the Contras violated the Boland Amendment ban on aid to military activities in Nicaragua the policies behind both the Iran and Contra operations were fully reviewed and developed at the highest levels of the Reagan administration although there was little evidence of national security council level knowledge of most of the actual contra support operations there was no evidence that any NSC member dissented from the underlying policy keeping the Contras alive despite congressional limitations on contra support the Iran operations were carried out with the knowledge of among others President Ronald Reagan vice-president George Bush Secretary of State George P Schultz Secretary of Defense Caspar w Weinberger director of Central Intelligence william j kc and national security advisers robert c mcfarland and John M Poindexter of these officials only Weinberger and Schultz dissented from the policy decision and Weinberger eventually acquiesced by ordering the Department of Defense to provide the necessary arms and large volumes of highly relevant contemporaneously created documents or systematically and willfully withheld from investigators by several Reagan administration officials following the revelation of these operations in October and November 1986

[00:06:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=328zUU_oDCK&t=361s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=328zUU_oDCK&t=361s)

operations in October and November 1986 Reagan administration officials deliberately deceived the Congress and the public about the level and extent of official knowledge of and support for these operations in addition Independent Counsel concluded that the off-the-books nature of the Iran and Contra operations gave line level personnel the opportunity to commit money crimes the basic facts of Iran Contra the iran-contra affair concerned to secret Reagan administration policies whose operations were coordinated by National Security Council the Iran operation involved efforts in 1985 and 1986 to obtain the release of Americans held hostage in the middle east through the sale of us weapons to Iran despite an embargo on such sales the Contra operations from 1984 through most of 1986 involved the secret governmental support of contra military and paramilitary activities in Nicaragua despite congressional prohibition of the support the Iran and Contra operations were merged when funds generated from the sale of weapons to Iran were diverted to support the Contra effort and Nicaragua although this diversion may be the most dramatic aspect of Iran Contra it is important to emphasize that both the Iran and Contra operations separately violated United States policy and law the ignorance of the diversion asserted by President Reagan and his cabinet officers on the National Security Council in no way absolves them of responsibility for the underlying Iran and Contra operations the secrecy concerning the Iran and Contra activities was finally pierced by events that took place thousands of miles apart

[00:08:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=328zUU_oDCK&t=480s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=328zUU_oDCK&t=480s)

that took place thousands of miles apart in the fall of 1986 the first occurred on October fifth 1986 when Nicaraguan government soldiers shot down an American cargo plane that was carrying military supplies to contra forces the one surviving crew member American Eugene hasenfus was taken into captivity and stated that he was employed by the CIA a month after the Hoss and fuss shoot down President Reagan's secret sale of us arms to Iran was reported by a Lebanese publication on November third the joining of these two operations was made public on November twenty-fifth nineteen eighty-six when Attorney General Meese announced that Justice Department officials had discovered that some of the proceeds from the Iran arms sales had been diverted to the Contras when these operations ended the exposure of the iran-contra affair

generated a new round of illegality beginning with the testimony of Elliott Abrams and others in October 1986 and continuing through the public testimony of Casper W. Wyinburger on the last day of the congressional hearings in the summer of nineteen eighty seven senior Reagan administration officials engaged in a concerted effort to deceive Congress and the public about their knowledge of and support for the operations independent counsel has concluded that the president's most senior advisors and the cabinet members on the National Security Council participated in the strategy to make national security staff members McFarlane Poindexter and North the scapegoats whose sacrifice would protect the Reagan administration in its final two years in an important sense this strategy succeeded independent counsel discovered much of the best evidence of the cover-up in the final year of active investigation too late for most prosecution's scope of report this report provides an account of the independent counsel's investigation the

[00:10:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=328zUU_oDCK&t=601s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=328zUU_oDCK&t=601s)

independent counsel's investigation the prosecution's the basis for decisions not to prosecute and overall observations and conclusions on the Iran-Contra matters part one of the report sets out the underlying facts of the Iran and Contra operations part two describes the criminal investigation of those underlying facts part 3 provides an analysis of the central operational conspiracy parts 4 through 9 are agency level reports of independent counsel's investigations and cases the national security staff the private operatives who assisted the NSC staff central intelligence agency officials department of state officials and white house officials and Attorney General Edwin Meese the third volume 1 of this report concludes with the chapter concerning political oversight and the rule of law and a final chapter containing independent counsel's observations volume 2 of the report contains supporting documentation volume 3 is a classified appendix because many will read only sections of the report each has been written with completeness even though this has resulted in repetition of factual statements about central activities the operational conspiracy the operational conspiracy was the basis for count one of the 23 count indictment returned by the grand jury March 16 1988 against Poindexter North Sord and Hakim it charged the four with conspiracy to defraud the United States by deceitfully one supporting military operations in Nicaragua in defiance of congressional controls to using the Iran arms sales to raise funds to be spent at the direction of North rather than the US government and three endangering the administration's hostage release effort

[00:12:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=328zUU_oDCK&t=720s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=328zUU_oDCK&t=720s)

administration's hostage release effort by overcharging Iran for the arms to generate unauthorized profits to fund the Contras and for other purposes the charge was upheld as a matter of law by US District Judge Gerhard A. Gesell even though the Justice Department in a move that Judge Gesell called unprecedented filed an amicus briefing supporting North's contention that the charge should be dismissed although count 1 was ultimately dismissed because the Reagan administration refused to declassify information necessary to North's defense judge Gesell's decision established that high government officials who engage in conspiracy to subvert civil laws and the Constitution have engaged in criminal acts trial on count one would have disclosed the government-wide activities that supported North's Iran and Contra operations within the NSC McFarland pleaded guilty in March 1988 to four counts of withholding information from Congress in connection with his denials that North was providing the Contras with military advice and assistance McFarland in his plea agreement promised to cooperate with independent counsel by providing truthful testimony in subsequent trials Judge Gesell ordered severance of the trials of the four charged in the conspiracy indictment because of the immunized testimony given by Poindexter North and Hakim to Congress North was tried and convicted by a jury in May 1989 of altering and destroying documents accepting an illegal gratuity and aiding and abetting in the obstruction of Congress his conviction was reversed on appeal in July 1990 and charges against North were subsequently dismissed in September 1991 on the ground that trial witnesses were tainted by North's nationally televised

[00:14:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=328zUU_oDCK&t=841s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=328zUU_oDCK&t=841s)

by North's nationally televised immunized testimony before Congress Poindexter in April 1990 was convicted by a jury on five felony counts of conspiracy false statements destruction and removal of records and obstruction of Congress the Court of Appeals reversed his conviction in November 1991 on the immunized testimony issue the flow of funds the illegal activities of the private citizens involved with the north and Secord operations are discussed in detail in part five the off-the-books conduct of the two highly secret operations circumvented normal administration accountability and congressional oversight associated with covert ventures and presented fertile ground for financial wrongdoing there were several funding sources for the Contras weapons purchases from the covert action Enterprise formed by North Secord and Hakim one donations from foreign countries two contributions from wealthy Americans sympathetic to President Reagan's contra support policies and three the diversion of proceeds from the sale of arms to Iran ultimately all of these funds fell under the control of north and through him Secord and Hakim north used political fundraisers Carl our Chanel and Richard R Millar to raise millions of dollars from wealthy Americans illegally using a tax-exempt organization to do so these funds along with the private contributions were run through a network of corporations and Swiss bank accounts put at north's disposal by Secord and hakim through which transactions were concealed and laundered and late nineteen eighty-five through 1986 the enterprise became centrally involved in the arms sales to Iran as a result of both the Iran and

[00:16:02 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=328zUU_oDCK&t=962s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=328zUU_oDCK&t=962s)

Iran as a result of both the Iran and Contra operations more than 47 million dollars flowed through enterprise accounts professional fundraisers Chanel and Miller pleaded guilty in the spring of nineteen eighty seven to conspiracy to defraud the government by illegal use of a tax-exempt foundation to raise contributions for the purchase of lethal supplies for the Contras they named North as an unindicted co-conspirator Secord pleaded guilty in November 1989 to a felony admitting that he falsely denied to Congress that North had personally benefited from the enterprise Hakeem pleaded guilty to the misdemeanor count of supplementing the salary of North Lake Resources incorporated the company controlled by Hakim to launder the enterprise's money flow pleaded guilty to the corporate felony of theft of government property in diverting the proceeds from the arms sales to the Contras and for unauthorized purposes Thomas G Klein's was convicted in September 1990 of for tax related felonies for failing to report all of his income from the enterprise agency support of the operations following the convictions of those who are most central to the iran-contra operations independent counsels investigation focused on the supporting roles played by government officials in other agencies and the supervisory roles of the NSC principals the investigation showed that administration officials who claimed initially that they had little knowledge about the Iran arms sales or the illegal contrary supply operation North directed were much better informed than they professed to be the office of end council obtained evidence that secretaries Weinberger and Schultz and White House chief of staff Donald T Regan among others held back information that would have helped Congress obtain a

[00:18:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=328zUU_oDCK&t=1081s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=328zUU_oDCK&t=1081s)

that would have helped Congress obtain a much clearer view of the scope of the iran-contra matter contemporaneous notes of Regan and Weinberger and those dictated by Schultz were withheld until they were obtained by independent counsel in 1991 and 1992 the white house and office of the vice president as the White House section of this report describes in detail the investigation found no credible evidence that President Reagan violated any criminal statute the OIC could not prove that Reagan authorized or was aware of the diversion or that he had knowledge of the extent of North's control of the contrary supply network nevertheless he set the stage for the illegal activities of others by encouraging and in general terms ordering support of the Contras during the October 1984 to October 1986 period when funds for the Contras were cut off by the Boland Amendment and in authorizing the sale of arms to Iran in contravention of the US embargo on such sales the president's disregard for civil laws enacted to limit presidential actions abroad specifically the Boland Amendment the arms Export Control Act and congressional notification requirements and covert action laws created a climate in which some of the government officers assigned to implement his policies felt emboldened to circumvent such laws President Reagan's directive to McFarland to keep the Contras alive body and soul during the Boland cut off period was viewed by North who was charged by

McFarlane to carry out the directive as an invitation to break the law similarly President Reagan's decision in 1985 to authorize the sale of arms to Iran from Israeli stocks despite warnings by Weinberger and Schultz that such transfers might violate the law opened the way for

[00:20:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=328zUU_oDCK&t=1200s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=328zUU_oDCK&t=1200s)

violate the law opened the way for Poindexter's subsequent decision to authorize the diversion Poindexter told Congress that while he made the decision on his own and did not tell the president he believed the president would have approved North testified that he believed the president authorized it independent counsels investigation did not develop evidence that proved that vice president bush violated any criminal statute contrary to his public pronouncements however he was fully aware of the Iran arms sales Bush was regularly briefed along with the President on the Iran arms sales and he participated in discussions to obtain third country support for the Contras the OIC obtained no evidence that Bush was aware of the diversion the OIC learned in December 1992 that Bush had failed to produce a diary containing contemporaneous notes relevant to Iran Contra despite requests made in 1987 and again in early nineteen ninety-two for the production of such material Bush refused to be interviewed for a final time and light of evidence developed in the later stages of OIC's investigation leaving unresolved a clear picture of his iran-contra involvement Bush's pardon of Weinberger on December 24th 1992 preempted a trial in which defense counsel indicated that they intended to call Bush as a witness the chapters on White House chief of staff Regan and Attorney General Edwin Meese the third focus on their actions during the November 1986 period as the president and his advisers sought to control the damage caused by the disclosure of the Iran arms sales Reagan and 1992 provided Independent Counsel with copies of notes showing that Poindexter and Meese attempted to create a false account of the 1985 arms sales from Israeli stocks which they believed were illegal in

[00:22:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=328zUU_oDCK&t=1320s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=328zUU_oDCK&t=1320s)

which they believed were illegal in order to protect the president Regan and the other senior advisers did not speak up to correct the false version of events no final legal determination on the matter had been made Regan said he did not want to be the one who broke the silence among the president's senior advisers virtually all of whom knew the account was false the evidence indicates that Meese November 1986 inquiry was more of a damage control exercise than an effort to find the facts he had private conversations with the President the Vice President Poindexter Weinberger Casey and Regan without taking notes even after learning of the diversion Meese failed to secure records in NSC staff offices or take other prudent steps to protect potential evidence and finally in reporting to the president and his senior advisers Meese gave a false account of what he had been told by stating that the President did not know about the 1985 Hawk shipments which Meese said might have been illegal the statute of limitations had run on November 1986 activities before OIC obtained its evidence in 1992 denied recollection of the statements attributed to him by the notes of Weinberger and Regan he was unconvincing but the passage of time would have been expected to raise a reasonable doubt of the intentional falsity of his denials if he had been prosecuted for his 1992 false statements the role of CIA officials director Casey's unswerving support of President Reagan's contra policies and of the Iran arms sales encouraged some CIA officials to go beyond legal restrictions in both operations Casey was instrumental in pairing North with Secord as a contra support team when the Boland amendment in October 1984 forced the CIA to

[00:24:02 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=328zUU_oDCK&t=1442s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=328zUU_oDCK&t=1442s)

in October 1984 forced the CIA to refrain from direct or indirect aid he also supported the North's Accord combination in the Iran arms sales despite deep reservations about it within the CIA hierarchy Casey's position on the Contras prompted the chief of the CIA's Central American Task Force Allen D. Fears Jr. to dovetail CIA activities with those of North's supply network in violation of Boland restrictions Casey's support for the NSC to direct the Iran arms sales and to use arms dealer Munir Hachem and Secord in the operation forced the CIA's Directorate of Operations to work with people it distrusted following the Hasenfus shoot down in early October 1986 George and Fears lied to Congress about US government

involvement in contra resupply to as fears put it keep the spotlight off the white house when the Iran arms sales became public in November 1986 three of Casey's key officers George Claridge and fears followed Casey's lead in misleading Congress for CIA officials were charged with criminal offences George the deputy director for operations and the third highest ranking CIA official Claridge chief of the European division fears and Fernandez George was convicted of two felony counts of false statements and perjury before Congress fears pleaded guilty to two misdemeanor counts of withholding information from Congress the four counts of obstruction and false statements against Fernandez were dismissed when the Bush administration refused to declassify information needed for his defense Claridge was awaiting trial on seven counts of perjury and

[00:26:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=328zUU_oDCK&t=1560s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=328zUU_oDCK&t=1560s)

trial on seven counts of perjury and false statements when he George and fears were pardoned by President Bush State Department officials in 1990 and 1991 Independent Counsel received new documentary evidence in the form of handwritten notes suggesting that Secretary Schultz's congressional testimony painted a misleading and incorrect picture of his knowledge of the Iran arms sales the subsequent investigation focused on whether Schultz or other department officials deliberately misled or withheld information from congressional or oh I see investigators the key notes taken by M Charles Hill Schultz's exact assistant were nearly verbatim contemporaneous accounts of Schultz's meetings within the department and Schultz's reports to Hill on meetings the secretary attended elsewhere the Hill notes and similarly detailed notes by Nicholas Platt the State Department's executive secretary provided the OIC with a detailed account of Schultz's knowledge of the Iran arms sales the most revealing of these notes were not provided to any Iran-contra investigation until nineteen ninety and 1991 the notes show that contrary to his early testimony that he was not aware of details of the 1985 arms transfers Schultz knew that the shipments were planned and that they were delivered also in conflict with his congressional testimony was evidenced that Schultz was aware of the 1986 shipments Independent Counsel concluded that Schultz's early testimony was incorrect if not false in significant respects and misleading if literally true in others when questioned about the discrepancies in 1992 Schultz did not dispute the accuracy of the Hill notes he told oh I see that he believed his testimony was accurate at the time and he insisted that if he had been

[00:28:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=328zUU_oDCK&t=1681s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=328zUU_oDCK&t=1681s)

and he insisted that if he had been provided with the notes earlier he would have testified differently Independent Counsel declined to prosecute because there was a reasonable doubt that Schultz's testimony was willfully false at the time it was delivered independent counsel concluded that Hill had willfully withheld relevant notes and prepared false testimony for Schultz in 1987 he declined to prosecute because Hill's claim of authorization to limit the production of his notes and the joint responsibility of Schultz for the resulting misleading testimony would at trial have raised a reasonable doubt after independent counsel had declined to prosecute Schultz independent counsel's initial focus on the State Department had centered on assistant secretary Elliot Abrams insistence to Congress and to the OIC that he was not aware of North's erection of the extensive contrary supply network in 1985 and 1986 as assistant secretary of state for inter American affairs Abrams chaired the restricted interagency group or r IG which coordinated US policy in central America although the OIC was skeptical about Abrams's testimony there was insufficient evidence to proceed against him until additional documentary evidence in support of him was discovered in 1990 and 1991 and until fears who represented the CIA on the r IG pleaded guilty in July 1991 to withholding information from Congress fears provided evidence to support North's earlier testimony that Abrams was knowledgeable about North's contra supply network Abrams pleaded guilty in October 1991 to two counts of withholding information from Congress about secret government efforts to support the Contras and about his solicitation of 10 million dollars to

[00:30:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=328zUU_oDCK&t=1800s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=328zUU_oDCK&t=1800s)

solicitation of 10 million dollars to aid the Contras from the Sultan of Brunei secretary Weinberger and Defense Department officials contrary to their testimony to the presidential II appointed tower Commission and the Select iran-contra Committees of Congress Independent Counsel determined that secretary Weinberger and his closest aides were consistently informed of proposed and actual arms shipments to Iran during 1985 and 1986 the key evidence was handwritten notes of Weinberger which he deliberately withheld from Congress and the OIC until they were discovered by independent counsel in late nineteen ninety one the Weinberger daily diary notes and notes of significant White House and other meetings contained highly relevant contemporaneous information that resolved many questions left unanswered in early investigations the notes demonstrated that Weinberger's early testimony that he had only vague and generalized information about iran arms sales in 1985 was false and that he in fact had detailed information on the proposed arms sales and the actual deliveries the notes also revealed that General Colin Powell Weinberger's senior military aide and Richard L Armitage assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs also had detailed knowledge of the 1985 shipments from Israeli stocks Armitage and Powell had testified that they did not learn of the November 1985 Hawk missile shipment until 1986 Weinberger's notes provided detailed accounts of high-level administration meetings in November 1986 in which the president's senior advisers were provided with false accounts of the Iran arms sales to protect the President and themselves from the consequences of the possibly illegal 1985 shipments from

[00:32:02 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=328zUU_oDCK&t=1922s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=328zUU_oDCK&t=1922s)

possibly illegal 1985 shipments from Israeli stocks Weinberger's notes provided key evidence supporting the charges against him including perjury and false statements in connection with his testimony regarding the arms sales his denial of the existence of notes and his denial of knowledge of Saudi Arabia's multi-million dollar contribution to the Contras he was pardoned less than two weeks before trial by president bush on December 24 1992 there was little evidence that Powell's early testimony regarding the 1985 shipments and Weinberger's notes was willfully false Powell cooperated with the various iran-contra investigations and when his recollection was refreshed by Weinberger's notes he readily conceded their accuracy Independent Counsel declined to prosecute Armitage because the OIC's limited resources were focused on the case against Weinberger and because the evidence against Armitage while substantial did not reach the threshold of proof beyond a reasonable doubt the reagan-bush and casey segments The Independent Counsel Act requires a report as to persons not indicted as well as those indicted because of the large number of persons investigated those discussed in individual sections of this report are limited to those as to whom there was a possibility of indictment in addition there are separate sections on President Reagan and President Bush because although criminal proceedings against them were always unlikely they were important subjects of the investigation and their activities were important to the action taken with respect to others CIA director Casey is a special case because Casey was hospitalized with a fatal illness before independent counsel was appointed no formal investigation of Casey was ever undertaken by the oh I

[00:34:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=328zUU_oDCK&t=2040s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=328zUU_oDCK&t=2040s)

Casey was ever undertaken by the oh I see Casey was never able to give his account and he was unable to respond to allegations of wrongdoing made about him by others most prominently North whose veracity is subject to serious question equally important fundamental questions could not be answered regarding Casey's state of mind the impact if any of his fatal illness on his conduct and his intent under normal circumstances a prosecutor would hesitate to comment on the conduct of an individual whose activities and actions were not subjected to rigorous investigation which might exculpate that individual nevertheless after serious deliberation independent counsel concluded that it was in the public interest that this report exposed as full and complete an account of the iran-contra matter as possible this simply could not be done without an account of the role of director Casey observations and conclusions this report concludes with independent counsels observations and conclusions he observes that the governmental problems presented by Iran Contra are not those of rogue operations but rather those of executive branch efforts to evade congressional oversight as this report documents the competing roles of the attorney general advisor to the President and top law enforcement officer come in two irreconcilable conflict in the case of high-level executive branch

wrongdoing Independent Counsel concludes that congressional oversight alone cannot correct the deficiencies that result when an attorney general abandons the law enforcement responsibilities of that office and undertakes instead to protect the president Independent Counsel asks the Congress to review the difficult and delicate problem posed to the investigations and prosecutions by congressional grants of immunity to

00:36:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=328zUU_oDCk&t=2162s)

congressional grants of immunity to principles while recognizing the important responsibility of Congress for investigating such matters thoroughly Congress must realize that grants of use immunity to principles in such highly exposed matters as the iran-contra affair will virtually rule out successful prosecution Independent Counsel also addresses the problem of implementing the classified information Procedures Act cipa in cases steeped and highly classified information such as many of the iran-contra prosecutions under the Act the Attorney General has unrestricted discretion to decide whether to declassify information necessary for trial even in cases in which Independent Counsel has been appointed because of the Attorney General's conflict of interest this discretion is inconsistent with the perceived need for Independent Counsel particularly in cases in which officers of the intelligence agencies that classify information are under investigation this discretion gives the Attorney General the power to block almost any potentially embarrassing prosecution that requires the declassification of information independent counsel suggests that the Attorney General implements standards that would permit independent review of a decision to block a prosecution of an officer within the executive branch and legitimate congressional oversight classified information in addition to the unclassified volumes one and two of this report a brief classified report volume 3 has been filed with the special division the classified report contains references to material gathered in the investigation of iran-contra that could not be declassified and could not be concealed by some substitute form of discussion

END